Development of Unani System of Medicine

1903. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare an action plan for the development and extension of Unani System of Medicine in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The proposals/Schemes included in the Tenth Plan and the National Health Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, 2002 lay emphasis on the development of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy including Unani System of Medicine. This *inter-alia* includes:

(i) improving standards of education and establishing Centres of Excellence;

(ii) Operationalization of National Institute of Unani Medicine at Bangalore;

(iii) Re-orientation and prioritization of research to gradually validate therapies and drugs;

(iv) Protection of traditional medicinal knowledge by setting up Traditional knowledge Digital Library in Unani;

(v) Utilization of available infrastructure for National Health care Programme and Delivery System;

(vi) Involvement of NGOs in promotion and propagation of ISM and including Unani System of Medicine;

(vii) Quality Control of Drugs;

(viii) Preparation of formularies and Pharmacopoeial standards.

Oral Cholera Vaccine

1904. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oral Cholera Vaccine has been evolved recently after tests on animals and human beings;

(b) if so, whether arrangements for its mass production have been finalized; and

(c) if so, by when the vaccine will be available in Government hospitals and in open market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) An indigenous oral recombinant vaccine for Cholera based on VA 1.3 strain of Vibrio Cholera has been developed jointly as a collaborative research effort of scientists of three institutes namely, Institute of Microbiotechnology, Chandigarh and Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata under Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The vaccine has undergone Phase-I clinical trials at three centres namely Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow and Society for Applied Studies, Kolkata. The vaccine is currently undergoing Phase-II clinical trials for efficacy.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Marketing of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines in foreign countries

1905. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme for marketing Ayurvedic and Unani medicines and drugs in USA, Europe and West Asia;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made in Western countries to find out the market potential for these drugs and medicines; and

(c) the details of plan to organize exhibitions, seminars and workshops in some of these countries to popularize Indian Medicines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A survey has been conducted for finding market potentials of Ayurvedic drugs in U.S.A. The exporters of medicines need to participate in exhibitions, seminars and workshops to popularize their products. The Government have also approved a scheme for extending assistance to exporters for participating in such events.